

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims 1-23 as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for automatically maintaining a file system, said method comprising the steps of:

receiving a maintenance schedule that specifies that a file system maintenance process is to be performed periodically or continuously;

receiving a usage goal that defines the amount of free disk space on a target that is to be attained when the file system maintenance process is performed, the target comprising at least a portion of a file system;

automatically performing the file system maintenance process periodically or continuously according to the maintenance schedule to attain the amount of free disk space on the target that is defined by the usage goal, the file system maintenance process comprising the steps of:

selecting files from the ~~file system target~~ for deletion so as to achieve a ~~predetermined the usage level for the file system goal~~; and

deleting the files that were selected[[,]]

~~automatically performing wherein the selecting step and the deleting step are performed automatically according to a maintenance schedule.~~

2. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the selecting step of the file system maintenance process includes the sub-steps of:

sorting the files using a sorting algorithm to produce a sorted list of files; and

selecting files beginning at the top of the sorted list until deletion of the selected files would achieve the ~~predetermined usage level for the file system goal~~.

3. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 2, wherein the sorting algorithm sorts files by file creation date or file size.

4. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the ~~predetermined usage level specifies goal defines~~ a percentage of ~~usage of the file system~~ free disk space on the target that is to be attained, or ~~an a total~~ amount of ~~usage of the file system~~ free disk space on the target that is to be attained.
5. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the ~~predetermined usage level specifies goal defines~~ a percentage by which to reduce usage of the ~~file system target~~, or an amount by which to reduce usage of the ~~file system target~~.
6. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, ~~further comprising wherein in~~ the step of receiving the ~~predetermined usage level goal~~, the usage goal is received from a user.
7. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 6, further comprising the step of:
receiving a selection of ~~a main the~~ target from the user, the target including a main target identifying a portion of the file system that is to be maintained, ~~wherein the selecting step and the deleting step are performed on the main target~~.
8. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 7, ~~further comprising the step of: receiving a selection of wherein the target further includes~~ at least one additional target ~~from the user~~, each additional target identifying another portion of the file system that is to be maintained, ~~wherein the selecting step and the deleting step are also performed on the additional target~~.
9. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, ~~further comprising wherein in~~ the step of receiving the maintenance schedule, the maintenance schedule is received from a user.
10. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 9, wherein the maintenance schedule specifies that the ~~selecting step and the deleting step are~~ file system maintenance process is to be performed automatically at a defined periodic interval ~~or at a plurality of defined times in the future~~.

11. (Currently Amended) A machine-readable medium encoded with a program for automatically maintaining a file system, said program containing instructions for performing the steps of:

receiving a maintenance schedule that specifies that a file system maintenance process is to be performed periodically or continuously;

receiving a usage goal that defines the amount of free disk space on a target that is to be attained when the file system maintenance process is performed, the target comprising at least a portion of a file system;

automatically performing the file system maintenance process periodically or continuously according to the maintenance schedule to attain the amount of free disk space on the target that is defined by the usage goal, the file system maintenance process comprising the steps of:

selecting files from the file system target for deletion so as to achieve a predetermined the usage level for the file system goal; and

deleting the files that were selected[[,]]

wherein the selecting step and the deleting step are performed automatically according to a maintenance schedule.

12. (Currently Amended) The machine-readable medium of claim 11, wherein the selecting step of the file system maintenance process includes the sub-steps of:

sorting the files using a sorting algorithm to produce a sorted list of files; and

selecting files beginning at the top of the sorted list until deletion of the selected files would achieve the predetermined usage level for the file system goal.

13. (Currently Amended) The machine-readable medium of claim 11, wherein the predetermined usage level specifies goal defines a percentage of usage of the file system free disk space on the target that is to be attained, or a total an amount of usage of the file system free disk space on the target that is to be attained, a percentage by which to reduce usage of the file system, or an amount to reduce usage of the file system.

14. (Currently Amended) The machine-readable medium of claim 13, wherein ~~said program~~ further contains instructions for performing in the step of receiving the ~~predetermined~~ usage level goal, the usage goal is received from a user.

15. (Currently Amended) The machine-readable medium of claim 14, wherein said program further contains instructions for performing the step of:

receiving a selection of ~~a main~~ the target from the user, the target including a main target identifying a portion of the file system that is to be maintained, ~~wherein the selecting step and the deleting step are performed on the main target.~~

16. (Currently Amended) The machine-readable medium of claim 14, wherein ~~said program~~ further contains instructions for performing in the step of receiving the maintenance schedule, the maintenance schedule is received from the user.

17. (Currently Amended) The machine-readable medium of claim 16, wherein the maintenance schedule specifies that the ~~selecting step and the deleting step are~~ file system maintenance process is to be performed automatically at a defined periodic interval or at a plurality of defined times in the future.

18. (Currently Amended) A system for automatically maintaining a file system, said system comprising:

a maintenance option definition interface for receiving a maintenance schedule that specifies that file system maintenance is to be performed periodically or continuously, and for receiving a usage goal that defines the amount of free disk space on a target that is to be attained when the file system maintenance is performed, the target comprising at least a portion of a file system; and

a file system maintenance module for automatically performing the file system maintenance periodically or continuously according to the maintenance schedule to attain the amount of free disk space on the target that is defined by the usage goal, the file system maintenance module comprising:

a file selector for selecting files from the ~~file system target~~ for deletion so as to achieve a ~~predetermined~~ the usage level ~~for the file system goal~~; and

a file remover for deleting the files that were selected[[,]]

~~wherein the file selector and the file remover automatically operate according to a maintenance schedule.~~

19. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 18, wherein the file selector sorts the files using a sorting algorithm to produce a sorted list of files, and selects files beginning at the top of the sorted list until deletion of the selected files would achieve the ~~predetermined~~ usage level ~~for the file system goal~~.

20. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 18, wherein the ~~predetermined~~ usage level ~~specifies goal defines~~ a percentage of usage of the file system free disk space on the target that is to be attained, or a total ~~an~~ amount of usage of the file system free disk space on the target that is to be attained, a percentage by which to reduce usage of the file system, or an amount to reduce usage of the file system.

21. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 20, ~~further comprising a user~~ wherein the maintenance option definition interface ~~for receiving~~ receives the ~~predetermined usage level goal~~ from a user.
22. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 21,
wherein the ~~user~~ maintenance option definition interface also receives a selection of a ~~main~~ the target from the user, the target including a main target identifying a portion of the file system that is to be maintained; ~~and the file selector and the file remover operate on the main target.~~
23. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 21, wherein the ~~user~~ maintenance option definition interface also receives the maintenance schedule from the user.